

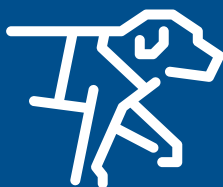
**Foundation  
Swiss School  
for Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Allschwil**

Guide Dogs

Assistance dogs

Autism service dogs

Social support dogs



# Foster dogs

**Would you like to rear a puppy?**



When our puppies are ten weeks old, they are handed over to carefully-chosen foster carers. For a good year, these foster carers look after the young dogs' welfare and undertake their basic education. We seek dedicated, animal-loving people who can help a puppy conquer the world!



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#### **Breeding at the school:**

##### **Labrador Retriever**

We follow clearly-defined criteria when we choose dogs for breeding. The school's internal breeding programme provides the best possible basis for careful application of these criteria; we can then favourably influence the conditions that allow puppies the appropriate psychological resilience, a strong and healthy constitution and a well-developed ability to learn, and we can encourage the puppies steadily from birth.

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#### **Nurturing pups purposefully**

Puppies spend the first ten weeks of their lives at the school, under the care of experienced animal keepers. The care given by the staff looking after these puppies promotes their optimum development, as do the indoor and outdoor spaces that have been equipped especially for them.

Their puppy garden and kennels contain educational toys that are appropriate for their age and were developed specifically for them. All their toys have an educational purpose and help to prepare the pups for their future training.





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### **The foster care period**

When they are ten weeks old, the puppies are entrusted to carefully-chosen foster carers, who have been informed meticulously in advance about what their role will entail. These foster carers look after the welfare and basic training of the young dogs for a good year. Just before the start of formal training, the foster parents bring them back to our school, where they are met by an experienced, sensitive instructor.

It takes a lot of dedication and consistent effort to transform a puppy into a dependable, self-assured dog. The key factors in a dog's early days are the development of a secure bond with its main attachment figure and the dependability and consistency of that person.

The attachment figure can contact the school for support at any time and thus enjoy the pleasure involved in fostering. Our school appeals to families, couples and single people to take a puppy into their lives and rear them lovingly for a period of about a year. We look for open-minded people who can help a puppy to conquer the world. It's important for the dog to be given targeted encouragement and not to be over-protected.

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The route to obtaining a foster dog is described on our website (or you can call us on: T 061 487 95 95).

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### **Professional support**

Foster carers can contact employees from the school for advice at any time during the fostering period. They will help you to understand the dog and treat it appropriately. In order for the puppy to develop a secure sense of self-confidence, it also needs to be taken on targeted, age-appropriate outings into both town and country to get used to the environment; it needs plenty of opportunities to play with other dogs too. Regular meetings support the dog's targeted development towards its

future work. Once it has returned to the school, a specially-trained instructor will prepare the dog for its important and valuable mission. Instructors keep foster carers informed about the future progress of their protégé.

The school will pay for food and veterinary expenses.



The Foundation Swiss School for Guide Dogs for the Blind Allschwil is grateful to all those who make a vital contribution so that we can provide self-confident, dependable dogs in the service of human beings.



If you are interested  
in rearing a foster dog,  
please call on:  
Tel 061 487 95 95



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#### **What do you need to house a foster dog?**

- A good physical and mental constitution.
- Maximum age at registration: 65 years.
- The main attachment figure must be able to provide a puppy/young dog with a lot of time and must be flexible enough to deal with its intensive rearing.
- You must be willing to attend regular training days at our school in Allschwil.
- Any children who live in the same household must ideally be at least 7 years old.
- Pets in general are allowed, but a second dog in the same household is only allowed by agreement.
- Your home: It must be possible to take the dog into town at least 2 or 3 times a week to get it used to urban environments.
- You do not need to have your own garden.
- The owner of the house must have given permission to keep a dog.





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Foundation  
Swiss School  
for Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Markstallstrasse 6  
4123 Allschwil, Switzerland  
P 061 487 95 95  
info@blindenhundeschule.ch  
www.blindenhundeschule.ch/en

Memberships



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